

Message Text

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41

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 NEA-06 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 /032 W

----- 119503

R 281400Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5975

INFO AMEMBAAASY LISBON

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BEIRUT 10887

FOR LISBON: PLEASE MAKE AVAILABLE TO CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (SIKES, ROBERT L.)

SUBJECT: CODEL SIKES VISIT TO LEBANON

1. CONGRESSMAN SIKES, MAJOR QUINLAS, USAF AND DEPT OF STATE OFFICER ENGEL ARRIVED BEIRUT 1930 HOURS AUGUST 25. MORNING AUGUST 26TH DEVOTED TO EMBASSY BRIEFINGS, LUNCHEON AT RESIDENCE AND IN LATE AFTERNOON AMBASSADOR AND CONGRESSMAN CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER RACHID KARAME AT HIS HOME IN ALEY.

2. CONVERSATION LASTED APPROXIMATELY HALF AN HOUR. CONGRESSMAN INQUIRED AS TO PRIMIN'S VIEWS OF FUTURE. PRIMIN MOST COMPLIMENTARY RE SECRETARY'S EFFORTS TEL AVIV AND CAIRO. WAS OPTIMISTIC RE SECOND SINAI WITHDRAWAL BUT THEN EMPHASIZED NECESSITY FOR A SOLUTION TO THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM WHICH WOULD PROBABLY FOLLOW FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS RE GOLAN. CONGRESSMEN ASSURED PRIMIN OF USG'S DEDICATION TO FINDING MIDDLE EASTERN SOLUTION AND HIS IMPRESSION OF INCREASING U.S. PUBLIC INTEREST IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD. U.S. PEOPLE ACCORDINGLY SUPPORTED THEIR GOVERNMENT'S QUEST FOR PEACE. PRIMIN OUTLINED PROBLEMS FOR GOL DUE PRESENCE PALESTINIANS HERE. SAID PEACE WOULD BE ONLY ACHIEVED WHEN JUST AND HONEST SOLUTION FOUND TO PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. CONGRESSMAN CONCURRED.

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3. CODEL DEPARTED BEIRUT EARLY AUGUST 27 FOR DAMASCUS VIA

BAALBECK, RETURNED BEIRUT AUGUST 28TH APPROXIMATELY
1200 HOURS AND EMPLANED 1330 HOURS FOR ATHENS.
GODLEY

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